

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PFOR, UK

SUBJECT:Q'S AND A'S FOLLOWING ELLIOT RICHARDSON'S PRESS

-- STATEMENT JANUARY 10

1. FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT Q'S AND A'S RICHARDSON'S
MEETING WITH THE PRESS AT THE DEPARTMENT JANUARY 10
PRIOR TO THE REGULAR NOON BRIEFING:

QUOTE: I HAVE JUST DISTRIBUTED TO YOU A BRIEF STATEMENT,
WHICH I WON'T READ. I'M SORRY TO HAVE TO MAKE THE POINT
WHICH YOU SEE THERE -- THAT I MUST RESERVE ANY COMMENTS
ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES THAT MIGHT LEAD TO THE QUESTION:
"WELL, WHY DO WE GO THROUGH THIS EXERCISE AT ALL?" THAT
IS SIMPLY THAT IT IS FOR ME A MUCH MORE CONVENIENT WAY OF
SAYING TO YOU THAT I'M SORRY I CAN'T GO INTO SUBSTANTIVE
ISSUES UNTIL AFTER CONFIRMATION -- ASSUMING THAT OCCURS --
RATHER THAN TO HAVE TO TRY TO REACH ALL OF THOSE WHO
INDIVIDUALLY SOUGHT TO GET IN TOUCH WITH ME YESTERDAY.

SO LET ME THEN INVITE YOUR QUESTIONS, AND IF I CAN'T
ANSWER THEM I WILL CERTAINLY DO MY BEST.

Q: THERE ARE A NUMBER OF BRITISH STATESMEN, EITHER ALREADY
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HERE OR COMING NEXT WEEK AND LATER THIS MONTH. JENKINS IS

HERE. DENIS HEALEY IS COMING -- SUNDAY, I THINK. AND

MR. WILSON AND MR. CALLAGHAN ARE COMING AT THE END OF THIS MONTH. ARE YOU PLANNING TO SEE THEM?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANY MEETINGS SCHEDULED WITH THEM FOR PURPOSES OF ANY SORT OF OFFICIAL DISCUSSION. MY NOMINATION WILL CERTAINLY NOT HAVE BEEN ACTED ON, SO FAR AS I KNOW. I DO EXPECT, HOWEVER, TO MEET THEM AT DINNERS THAT ARE BEING GIVEN FOR THEM WHEN THEY'RE HERE.

Q: IT'S BEEN SUGGESTED THAT THIS JOB MIGHT BE SORT OF A HOLDING PATTERN FOR YOU TO SEE HOW THE POLITICAL SITUATION SHAPES UP. I WONDER IF YOU'D DISCUSS THAT.

A: I'M LOOKING FORWARD THIS JOB FOR ITS OWN SAKE. I THINK IT'S AN IMPORTANT AND DEMANDING ASSIGNMENT. I WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET BACK INTO THE FIELD OF FOREIGN POLICY, AND I HOPE TO BE USEFUL IN IT. I'VE NEVER BELIEVED IN TAKING ANY JOB FOR THE SAKE OF WHATEVER ELSE MIGHT COME ALONG, AND I AM QUITE CONTENT TO LEAVE THAT TO THE FUTURE.

Q: CAN YOU DISCUSS THE FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF THIS JOB? IT'S ALWAYS SAID YOU HAVE TO BE VERY RICH TO RUN THAT EMBASSY. HOW MUCH WILL THE STATE DEPARTMENT GIVE YOU FOR RUNNING THE EMBASSY'S ENTERTAINMENT, ET CETERA, AND HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK IT WILL COST YOU YOURSELF?

A: THE REPRESENTATIONAL ALLOWANCE THAT IS ALLOCATED TO THE EMBASSY, I'M TOLD, IS GOING TO BE \$50,000. I'M NOT SURE WHETHER THAT'S EFFECTIVE ONLY IN THE NEW FISCAL YEAR OR WHETHER IT'S EFFECTIVE AT AN ANNUAL RATE OF \$50,000 BEFORE THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR. IN ANY EVENT, THE REPRESENTATIONAL ALLOWANCE, I BELIEVE IS AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY AS A WHOLE, INCLUDING ENTERTAINMENT BY, FOR EXAMPLE, THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION AS WELL AS THE AMBASSADOR.

I DON'T HAVE ANY GOOD FEEL FOR HOW FAR THAT WILL GO BUT,
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AS FAR AS MY OWN FUNDS ARE CONCERNED, I WOULD NOT BE IN A POSITION TO SPEND ANY MORE REALLY THAN I'M CURRENTLY SPENDING -- WHICH WOULD BE NOT MUCH MORE THAN THE AMOUNT PROVIDED IN THE SALARY AND SO FORTH.

SO WE'LL SEE HOW WELL IT GOES, BUT I THINK IT OUGHT TO BE POSSIBLE. IF IT TURNS OUT TO BE NOT POSSIBLE, AND TO DO IT IN A WAY THAT IS APPROPRIATE TO THE REQUIREMENTS

OF THE JOB, THEN OF COURSE I WOULD EXPECT TO TRY TO GET THE ALLOWANCE INCREASED AND POSSIBLY FEEL THAT IT WAS NECESSARY EVEN TO APPEAL TO THE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEES.

IN THAT EVENT, I MIGHT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO ON BEHALF OF U.S. MISSIONS ABROAD GENERALLY.

Q: WILL THIS BE A FINANCIAL SACRIFICE TO YOU IN ANY CASE?

A: ONLY IN THE SENSE THAT I TEND TO DRIBBLE OUT A LITTLE MORE INCOME THAN I HAVE OVER THE YEARS.

BUT I AM NOT, IN A PRACTICAL MATTER, IN A POSITION TO SACRIFICE ANY VERY LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY.

Q: WHEN YOU DISCUSSED THIS OFFER WITH THE PRESIDENT, DID THE TWO OF YOU DISCUSS ANY OTHER JOB THAT MIGHT COME ABOUT AS A RESULT OF YOUR TAKING THIS ONE?

A: NO. IN THE FIRST PLACE, I DID NOT DISCUSS IT WITH THE PRESIDENT.

Q: I SEE. WITH WHOM DID YOU DISCUSS IT?

A: I DISCUSSED IT WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE -- HENRY KISSINGER.

WHAT WAS THE FOLLOW-UP PART OF IT?

Q: I WAS JUST CURIOUS AS TO WHETHER, WHEN YOU TOOK THIS JOB, YOU DISCUSSED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE OR THE PRESIDENT ANY OTHER JOB THAT MIGHT COME OUT OF THIS JOB.
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A: NO -- NOT IN THE SENSE THAT THAT IMPLIES AS A SORT OF SEQUENCE. THERE WAS REALLY NOTHING SAID ABOUT THAT EXCEPT BY REFERENCE TO A POSSIBILITY. BUT IT WAS NOT A MATTER THAT I FELT OUGHT TO BEAR ON THE DECISION. AND IT DID NOT, AS FAR AS I WAS CONCERNED.

Q. FIRST OF ALL, COULD YOU PERHAPS EXPAND ON WHAT YOU SAID JUST NOW ABOUT THE OTHER POSSIBILITY THAT WAS RAISED WHEN YOU TALKED WITH DR. KISSINGER? AND, ALSO, ARE YOU ABLE TO TALK ABOUT THE RANGE OF DUTIES THAT HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED -- IN PARTICULAR, THE --

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A: THE RANGE OF WHAT?

Q: YOUR DUTIES IN LONDON, AND WHETHER YOU WILL BE INVOLVED WITH BROADER EUROPEAN QUESTIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS ON CONSUMER SOLIDARITY, ON ENERGY PROBLEMS, AND SO ON.

A: WELL, FIRST I'D RATHER NOT GO INTO ANY QUESTION OF ANY FOLLOW-ON POSSIBILITIES. I THINK IT TENDS TO BLUR THE IMPORTANT DECISION THAT WAS INVOLVED ON MY PART, WHICH WAS THE DECISION TO TAKE THIS JOB FOR ITS OWN SAKE -- AND BECAUSE I THINK IT'S AN IMPORTANT JOB AND AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY.

AS TO THE RANGE OF THE JOB, THE UNITED KINGDOM DOES OF COURSE, IN CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES AND CONTINUING COMMUNICATION WITH US, DEAL WITH A VERY WIDE RANGE OF MATTERS INVOLVING WESTERN EUROPE AS A WHOLE -- BOTH MILITARY AND ECONOMIC. AND I WOULD EXPECT TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT ON THESE ISSUES AND TO GIVE SUCH ADVICE AS I MAY HAVE.

Q: KEEPING IN MIND, SIR, THAT 1976 IS AN ELECTION YEAR HERE AND SOME PEOPLE HAVE MENTIONED YOU AS A POTENTIAL CANDIDATE AMONG MANY OTHERS, HAVE YOU SET IN YOUR MIND A LIMIT -- A PERIOD OF TIME -- DURING WHICH YOU WOULD STAY IN LONDON -- LIKE A YEAR OR 18 MONTHS, OR SOMETHING OF THAT KIND?

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A: NO, I HAVEN'T. I'M GOING WITHOUT ANY ANTICIPATED TERMINATION DATE OR WITHOUT ANY CLEAR SENSE AS TO WHAT THE FUTURE MAY BRING. IT SEEMS TO ME, AS I SAID, AN OPPORTUNITY THAT I WELCOME FOR ITS OWN SAKE.

Q: HOW DOES THE PROSPECT OF TAKING UP RESIDENCE IN RATHER GLOOMY, EMBATTLED BRITAIN AT THE MOMENT APPEAL TO YOU?

A: WELL, I OF COURSE DON'T HAVE A DIRECT SENSE OF THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE COUNTRY OR THE MOOD AT THIS POINT. I'VE HEARD REPORTS OF IT WHICH SUGGEST THAT THE BRITISH PEOPLE ARE, AS THEY WOULD BE BOUND TO BE, CONCERNED ABOUT THE CONOMIC SITUATION OF THE COUNTRY; AND I, OF COURSE, LIKE ALL AMERICANS, AM CONSCIOUS OF THE CAPACITY FOR THE BRITISH TO RISE TO A SITUATION OF STRESS. AND IF IN ANY WAY AS AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE UK I CAN HELP THE COUNTRY TO DO THAT, I CERTAINLY WANT TO DO WHATEVER I CAN. UNQUOTE

2.FULL TEXT OF TRANSCRIPT BEING SENT AIR POUCH. KISSINGER

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